EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Trinity Public Utilities District (PUD) Direct Interconnection Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), presents the Western Area Power Administration's (Western's) analysis of the environmental impacts of proposed transmission line additions and improvements identified for the proposed action, also referred to as the project, and alternatives.

Western proposes to construct the Trinity PUD Direct Interconnection Project. The project objective is to enhance the reliability of service for the customers of the Trinity PUD by establishing a new direct interconnection with Western's Central Valley Project (CVP) transmission system. The project would be located entirely within Trinity County, California, and would include three main segments:

- Segment 1 includes the removal of about 5.3 mi of existing 12-kV distribution line from Trinity Power Plant at Trinity Dam to a tap point about 0.75 mi west of Lewiston Dam and the construction of a new 60-kV transmission line to replace the 12-kV line on an expansion of the existing right-of-way (ROW). The total length of Segment 1 would be 6.5 mi.

- Segment 2 includes construction of a tap structure with three-way switch equipment on the new 60-kV transmission line at the location near Lewiston Dam, and a radial 1.2-mi tap line south to the existing Lewiston Substation on Trinity Dam Road, parallel to an existing distribution line.

- Segment 3 includes construction of a new 60-kV transmission line on a new ROW from the tap point west about 8.5 mi to the proposed new Weaverville Switchyard.

- The project also includes the construction of the new Weaverville Switchyard, which would be located about 2 mi south of Weaverville on the east side of Highway 299, the improvement of several miles of existing access roads, and the construction of approximately 4.4 mi of new access roads.

The role of an EIS is to inform decision makers and the public of the environmental impacts associated with a project and to provide reasonable alternatives. An EIS documents the analysis and evaluation conducted to determine the impacts to the human environment that would result from implementing the project and reasonable alternatives. This EIS will be used by Federal officials in conjunction with other relevant material to plan actions and make decisions concerning the project. Preparation of this EIS involves the cooperation of Western, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Western is the lead Federal agency, and USFS, BLM, and Reclamation are cooperating agencies. The EIS is intended to satisfy the requirements of NEPA for each Federal agency's decision related to the siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of the project. The decisions to be made by Western, USFS, BLM, and Reclamation regarding the project will be issued following the Final EIS in the form of separate Records of Decision (ROD) for each agency.

WESTERN'S BACKGROUND

Western delivers reliable, cost-based hydroelectric power and related services within the central and western United States. Western is one of four power marketing administrations within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), whose role is to market and transmit electricity from multiuse water projects. Western's transmission system carries electricity from power plants operated by Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the International Boundary and Water Commission.

Western's service area covers 1.3 million mi^2, and its wholesale power customers provide service to millions of consumers in 15 western states. Western operates and maintains more than 17,000 mi of transmission lines from its four regional offices. The Trinity County area is within Western's Sierra Nevada Region (SNR). The SNR maintains and operates numerous substations and more than 1,400 mi of transmission lines.

NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Trinity PUD is a small utility district in Northern California serving approximately 16,000 consumers in a 2,200-mi^2 area. The Trinity PUD is directly connected to the California Independent System Operator (ISO)-controlled electrical grid by 60-kV transmission facilities and a 115-kV transmission line. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) owns and maintains the 115-kV transmission line. Although transmitted through the PG&E system, Trinity PUD receives 100% of its power from Western.

Consumers in the Trinity PUD service area routinely experience nearly 20,000 consumer hours in outages per year. In the winter, many of the outages last three to four days. PG&E has had a difficult time restoring service due to the remote location and rough terrain. The purpose of the project is to improve the system reliability by providing a shorter, new direct interconnection with Western's transmission system at Trinity Power Plant.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement is a vital part of the decision-making process for an EIS. Western developed a public involvement program that provides multiple opportunities for public comment during the EIS process. Opportunities for the public to obtain information about and comment on the project occur throughout the entire EIS process; they include newsletters, public scoping meetings, public comment hearings, review of the Draft EIS, and a public comment period of at least 45 days. Public comments are evaluated by Western and the cooperating agencies and applied to alternative formulation, alternative evaluation, impact assessment, and the decision-making process.

The public involvement program is intended to guide Western through a collaborative, systematic, decision-making process with four primary purposes:

1. Share information with the interested public,

2. Gather information from the public,

3. Identify public concerns and issues, and

4. Develop and maintain credibility.

Western designed the public participation process to (1) heighten public awareness and encourage open communication throughout the development of the EIS; (2) be flexible and responsive to the issues and needs of the public, Western's customers, and public agencies; (3) solicit input on the scope of issues that should be addressed in the Draft EIS; and (4) identify significant issues related to the project.

Public scoping meetings were held in Weaverville and Redding, California, in July 2006. The Draft EIS was circulated to Federal, State, regional, and local agencies and to interested individuals and organizations that might have wished to review and comment on it. Publication of the Draft EIS marked the beginning of a 45-day public review period that ended on March 26, 2007, during which Western received written comments

Western held public hearings during the Draft EIS review period on March 6, 2007, at the Best Western Victorian Inn in Weaverville, California, and on March 7, 2007, at the La Quinta Inn in Redding, California. The hearings were part of the Western's continuing efforts to provide opportunities for public participation in the decision-making process and to meet the objectives of such participation, as listed above.

Western received 15 written comment letters that represented 13 different individuals and public and private organizations. Two individuals also provided comments orally at the public hearing in Weaverville. No members of the public attended the hearing in Redding. Appendix G of this EIS contains an index of the persons and organizations that submitted written comments as well as an index listing the persons who provided oral comments at the public hearing. It also contains the comment letters reproduced in their entirety, with individual comments identified by numbered sidebars. Western's responses to the comments are provided on the right-hand facing pages. A transcript of the public hearing is also provided in appendix G, with individual comments treated in a similar fashion.

A number of issues pertaining to the analyses in Draft EIS were raised in public comments. Among these issues were:

- Concerns regarding erosion control to prevent the sedimentation of streams as a result of construction traffic going over stream crossings,

- Specific permitting and mitigation measures addressing such erosion,

- Estimation of the extent of direct and cumulative impacts from the proposed project, and

- Analysis of impacts to the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*).

Several modifications were made to the Draft EIS to address these issues; these are described in the respective responses to the comments.

In addition to the public comment process described above, revisions were made in consultation with technical staff from USFS, BLM, and Reclamation, the cooperating agencies in preparing the EIS. Additional analyses and clarifications were made in the assessments of soil erosion, geology, watershed impacts, and herbicide risks. Additional revisions were made after technical and editorial review. Neither these revisions, nor those resulting from agency consultation, affected the conclusions of the Draft EIS; they were made to address the technical quality of the document. Content-related changes to the Draft EIS text are identified with a vertical line in the margin of the page. The agency consultation and technical review process and resultant modifications are described in appendix F.

Following the receipt of comments and the close of the public comment period, Western prepared this Final EIS, which considers and responds to comments received on the Draft EIS.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND DISMISSED

Western considered alternatives during the project planning process. System and route alternatives, as described below, were considered prior to defining the proposed action. Among Western's planning objectives were to locate the new transmission line along the shortest route with the fewest landowners and to utilize the existing transmission corridor and access roads to the maximum extent possible. The proposed action met the purpose and need of the participating agencies.

System Alternatives

Western examined four main system alternatives to the proposed action:

- System Alternative 1 consisted of parallel Western and PG&E transmission lines via a new 230-to 60-kV transmission interconnection between Western's 230- to 60-kV transmission system at Trinity Dam and the Trinity PUD's Douglas City 60-kV Substation.

- System Alternative 2 was the same as system alternative 1, except that Western's and PG&E's transmission lines would not be operated in parallel. The two lines would be isolated via a set of disconnect switches located between PG&E's Trinity Substation and Trinity PUD's Mill St. Substation.

- System Alternative 3 would have Western's and PG&E's transmission lines paralleled via an interconnection near Western's 230-kV J.F. Carr Substation. This design would consist of looping PG&E's Cottonwood-Trinity 115-kV transmission line into a new 230/115-kV substation in or adjacent to Western's Carr Substation.

- System Alternative 4 would be a pair of parallel Western and PG&E transmission lines. It would include looping PG&E's Cascade-Lewiston 60-kV transmission line into a new 230/60-kV substation in or adjacent to Western's J.F. Carr 230-kV Substation.

Routing Alternatives

Western examined four main routing alternatives to the proposed action:

- Routing Alternative 1 was an alternative alignment of Segment 1, from the Trinity Power Plant to the Lewiston Substation. With this alternative alignment, the line would follow along County Route (CR) 105, on the west side of the Trinity River from Trinity Dam to Lewiston Lake.

- Routing Alternative 2 was an alternative alignment of Segment 2, the tap line from Lewiston Tap to Lewiston Substation. With this alternative alignment, the tap line would follow a similar path to Segment 2 of the proposed action but would be located further west of Trinity Dam Boulevard.

- Routing Alternative 3 was an alternative alignment of the western terminus of the line (Segment 3), near the proposed Weaverville Switchyard. With this alternative alignment, the line would cross further north than described for the proposed action.

- Routing Alternative 4 was an underwater cable alternative for Segment 1. With this alternative alignment, the line would enter the Trinity River near the Trinity Substation, convert to an underwater cable, extend through Lewiston Lake, and exit the lake west of the fish hatchery.

No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, no upgrades or rebuilds to the existing transmission line system would be constructed in the Trinity area. For the PG&E lines currently serving the Trinity PUD load, structures and hardware would be maintained, repaired, and/or replaced as required during routine maintenance activities or in the event of emergency outages of the transmission lines. Repairs and maintenance would increase in frequency as the transmission lines age.

Alternatives Analysis

The system alternatives described above were not considered in detail for this EIS because technical construction and maintenance issues would make the alternatives infeasible. The routing alternatives described above were also not considered in detail because the preferred alternative, constructing the project within the existing ROW, would have less adverse effects than would constructing new lines in previously undisturbed areas.

IMPACTS EVALUATED

This EIS provides a description of the affected environment and an evaluation of the environmental consequences for several resource areas. Environmental resource areas analyzed include:

- Air quality,

- Biological resources,
- Cultural resources,
- Geology and soils,
- Land use,
- Noise,
- Paleontological resources,
- Public health and safety,
- Socioeconomics and environmental justice,
- Traffic and transportation,
- Visual resources,
- Water resources, and
- Wilderness and recreation.

The discussion of the affected environment includes a description of the existing conditions and background for each resource, definition of the resource study area, description of issues of environmental concern, and a characterization of the study area. The environmental consequences discussion provides information on the standards of significance, environmental protection measures (EPMs), a description of impacts, and additional mitigation measures, if appropriate.

Table ES-1 presents a summary of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and the no action alternative, based on the analyses in chapter 3 of this EIS. The table presents impacts that would result from constructing, operating, and maintaining the proposed transmission line segments and the Weaverville Switchyard.

For each of the resource areas described above, impacts were either less than significant impacts or potentially significant impacts that would be mitigated to less than significant. The no action alternative appears to have the fewest overall impacts; however, it does not meet Western's need for power system reliability.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts result from the incremental effect of the action, decision, or project when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Requirements for addressing cumulative impacts are to gather and analyze enough data to make a reasoned

decision concerning these impacts. Western examined actions that have environmental impacts on the same resources affected by this project and similar projects.

Cumulative impacts for each of the resource areas were assessed. The proposed action would have a negligible contribution to cumulative impacts after mitigation measures for all resources were implemented.

Table ES-1 Summary of Impacts

Affected Environment	Proposed Project	No Action Alternative
Air Quality	Short-term impacts to air quality would occur during construction and periodic maintenance of the ROW and access roads. The increase of air emissions after applying the applicable EPM would be well below the significance thresholds. The proposed project is not in an area considered likely to contain natural occurrences of asbestos. A permit and approval would be obtained by the USFS prior to any burning. No diesel-fired sources are planned; however, should any of these type of sources be needed, they would be registered under the portable equipment registration program or have a permit issued by the District. No significant impacts to air quality would result from the proposed project.	The ROW would not be increased and new transmission lines would not be constructed under the no action alternative. Air emissions would not be increased. There would be no significant impacts to air quality.
Biological Resources • Vegetation	Construction and operation would result in the permanent loss of about 2.2 acres of vegetation for access roads and the Weaverville Switchyard and would alter up to 157 acres of vegetation within the ROW. An additional 31.5 acres of vegetation would be temporarily impacted during construction. The extent of disturbance to mixed conifer hardwood forest would be a small fraction of the remaining area of similar adjacent communities. The proposed project would have a less than significant impact on vegetation communities. Disturbed sites would be monitored for noxious weeds. Any colonizing noxious weeds would be actively controlled via an approved control methodology. The proposed action would not result in the uncontrolled expansion of noxious weeds and would be a less than significant impact.	Under the no action alternative, the existing 12-kV distribution line would remain in the existing ROW but would not be energized. The line presents an ongoing potential for bird collisions. Other actions and construction activities with associated adverse environmental effects would be required to improve the electric system and provide reliable electric power in the area.

Table ES-1 (Cont.)

Affected Environment	Proposed Project	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources • Terrestrial Wildlife	The minimal losses of wildlife that would result from construction activities or temporary displacement during construction activities would be insignificant in a regional context. Wildlife displacement and mortality is a short-term impact that would not result in a regional decline in any populations of terrestrial wildlife. If blasting does occur, it would be of short duration, and there would be no measurable long-term effect on population numbers or distribution over a species range of occurrence. Wildlife near the helicopter flight path and designated landing areas would be exposed to an increase in noise levels of short duration (e.g., usually less than five minutes). With proposed mitigation measures to reduce bird mortality (e.g., state-of-the art marking devices and spacing between conductors), impacts from the transmission line would not affect the biological viability of local, regional, or national populations of bird species. The proposed project would have a less than significant impact on terrestrial wildlife with the incorporation of EPMs.	
Biological Resources • Fisheries	The proposed project would not directly disturb suitable habitat, individual fish, or populations within the Trinity River, Rush Creek, or Little Browns Creek. Therefore, there would be no significant impacts to fisheries.	
Biological Resources • Federally Listed Species • Designated Critical Habitat	Bald eagle (recently delisted): No nests have been identified within the project area. Electrocution hazards would be minimized by line spacing, conductor layout, utility pole construction, and use of state-of-the-art marking devices, where necessary. The proposed project would have a less than significant impact on the bald eagle, with the incorporation of environmental protection and conservation measures. Northern spotted owl (threatened): The project intersects the 1.3-mi home range buffer surrounding three nests that were active in 2007 and 2006, as well as eight other historic nest sites. The project applicant would conserve and manage off-site acreage to mitigate the loss of northern spotted owl habitat, including about 35.4 acres of designated critical habitat. The proposed habitat conservation measures, distance standards for Riparian Reserves, and general project specifications and conservation measures ensure that the proposed action would not contribute to the further decline of the northern spotted owl.	

Table ES-1 (Cont.)

Affected Environment	Proposed Project	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources (Cont.) • Federally Listed Species • Designated Critical Habitat	Coho salmon (threatened): This anadromous fish species has access to the Trinity River, Rush Creek, and Little Browns Creek; each stream contains designated critical habitat. No construction activities would occur within these streams. Construction could result in short-term increases in sedimentation and turbidity in the downstream reaches of the streams and their tributaries traversed by the project. Summer construction to avoid the spawning season, the use of sediment fences, and implementation of the Riparian Reserve limits of disturbance standards would reduce impacts to a less than significant level. The proposed action would not directly impact any coho salmon designated critical habitat. Pacific fisher (candidate): Two incidental sightings of the Pacific fisher were documented during the 2006 northern spotted owl surveys. The proposed action would not act as a barrier to Pacific fisher movement, as the existing transmission line corridor and existing networks of road have not precluded their use of the project area. The proposed habitat conservation measures for Riparian Reserves and the general project specifications and conservation measures ensure that the proposed action would not contribute to the need for the species to become listed or result in a significant impact.	
Biological Resources • USFS and BLM Sensitive Species	Of the species that are listed by the USFS and BLM, the northern goshawk and foothill yellow-legged frog may occur in the project area. Implementation of the proposed action may adversely impact individuals but would not be likely to result in a loss that would cause a trend to Federal listing or a loss of rangewide species viability.	
Biological Resources • Wildlife Management Indicator Assemblage	Five assemblages are present in the project area. Construction of the project would result in the removal of some assemblage types and the shifting of others to another type. On the basis of the forestwide trend patterns detailed in section 3.2, the project-level habitat impacts would not alter or contribute to existing forestwide trends. These shifts, losses, and removals of habitat would be very small in relation to forestwide trends and well within the margin of error in measuring these patterns.	

Table ES-1 (Cont.)

Affected Environment	Proposed Project	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources • Survey and Manage/ Aquatic Conservation Strategy	No populations of the Survey and Manage mollusk or plant species were found during the 2006 field surveys. Therefore, it is not anticipated that any direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts would occur to Survey and Manage species as a result of the potential lack of individuals or populations in the proposed project area. The proposed action is in compliance with the 2001 Survey and Manage Record of Decision.	
Biological Resources • Riparian Reserves	Riparian Reserve areas would be crossed on USFS lands. Since the project would follow the prescribed limits of disturbance within classified Riparian Reserves, construction of the project would have a less than significant impact.	
Biological Resources • Waters of the United States and Wetlands	Waters of the United States, including wetlands, would be spanned by the transmission lines; no tower structures would be placed within any ordinary high water marks. Disturbances within streams from the existing and new access road crossings include the removal of one culvert and the placement of rocks and/or the lowering of the grade of the approaches at some locations. No culverts would be installed, and no soil fill would be placed in stream crossings. Impacts to waters of the United States and wetlands are expected to be less than significant.	
Cultural Resources	Sixteen historic era sites, two electrical power lines, one residential complex, and two isolated features have been identified within the project's area of direct effects. Western has made preliminary determinations of eligibility for the identified resources and will consult with the California Office of Historic Preservation on final determinations of eligibility and effects on historic resources for the project. Although Western will continue to consult and update tribes throughout the proposed action, no traditional cultural properties or other concerns have been raised by the tribes.	Impacts would be restricted to existing transmission line and existing access road maintenance. Repair to the transmission lines or structures could involve localized ground disturbance from heavy equipment. Vegetation removal by hand or mechanical equipment may be necessary to improve access roads or access to individual transmission line structures.

Table ES-1 (Cont.)

Affected Environment	Proposed Project	No Action Alternative
Geology and Soils	Trinity County has a history of low seismic activity. Geotechnical hazards would be evaluated during final design specification for each pole location and road construction area. Selecting sites with stable conditions, correcting unstable slope conditions, and implementing EPMs would reduce hazardous site-specific geologic conditions. The areas where soil erosion may be increased are narrow and spread over a large area, thereby reducing the potential for impacts. Development of an erosion and sedimentation control plan and implementing the EPMs would reduce geology and soil erosion impacts to less than significant levels.	The existing distribution line would remain in place and would be periodically accessed using the existing ROW and access roads. The no action alternative would result in no additional impacts to geology and soil resources over current conditions.
Land Use	Construction of the project would use existing ROW, or where required, new ROW would cross undeveloped land. The project would not remove houses or other buildings and would not displace people or disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community. The project would cross Reclamation lands and lands subject to three land use plans (USFS, BLM, and Trinity County) and the Trinity County's Zoning Ordinance. The proposed action would not conflict with BLM or Trinity County land use policies or Reclamation zones. With the implementation of the EPMs, the potential conflict with USFS land use policies would be reduced to less than significant.	The no action alternative would not result in direct or indirect effects to land use.
Noise	Most of the project traverses undeveloped areas with few if any noise-sensitive areas. Noise-sensitive areas include Ackerman Campground, isolated residential areas near Jessup Gulch Road, the Trinity River Fish Hatchery, and residential areas near the community of Lewiston. Elevated noise levels during construction would be periodic and occur over a relatively short period of time (e.g., a few weeks). Blasting has a low probability of occurring, especially near or adjacent to sensitive receptors. If it does occur, it would be of short duration. Noise associated with the use of helicopter(s) for construction of the transmission line is not anticipated to be significant because of the rural nature of the project area, the short duration the helicopter will spend at each site, and the fact that most of the helicopter operations would be less than 60 dBA near noise sensitive receptors. The transmission line would be designed to minimize conductor point discharge sources, which could be a source of corona activity that would generate audible noise levels. The specifications for electrical equipment would be developed so they would comply with the sound level required by industry standards, governing regulations, or local ordinances.	Under the no action alternative, no facilities would be constructed. Current noise levels would remain unchanged.

Table ES-1 (Cont.)

Affected Environment	Proposed Project	No Action Alternative
Noise (Cont.)	Maintenance-related noise levels would be similar to those for construction, although they would be less frequent and intense. With the implementation of EPMs, noise impacts would be less than significant.	
Paleontological Resources	Most of the rocks found in Trinity County are normally poor sources of fossil materials. The project area has a "low sensitivity" for finding scientifically significant fossils. Therefore, impacts to paleontological resources would likely be insignificant.	No facilities would be constructed. No disturbance or activities would occur above existing conditions. Therefore, there would not be any potential to impact unknown paleontological resources.
Public Health and Safety and Hazardous Materials	The general public health and safety conditions would not change as a result of the proposed action. The proposed action would not alter any emergency response plan or interfere with emergency response vehicles or pose a hazard to public or private airports. Solid and hazardous wastes would be disposed of at facilities permitted for handling and disposing of waste. In accordance with National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) requirements, induced currents from the transmission lines would be 5 mA or less. Therefore, the potential for electric shock would be less than significant. The electric and magnetic fields at the edge of and within the project transmission line ROW would be less than the threshold values. The Weaverville Switchyard and most of the transmission line would be located in uninhabited areas. With implementation of the EPMs, impacts to public health and safety and hazardous materials are determined to be less than significant.	Under the no action alternative, the frequent electrical service outages that have occurred would continue to present potential public health and safety impacts.
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice	The small number of outside workers (16) would not cause a major or regionally measurable change in employment, community services, or housing availability or measurably increase the population of Trinity County. The proposed action would not displace or cause a major disruption to businesses. There would not be a disproportional affect to minority or low-income populations. The increased reliability of the energy supply to commercial and industrial users might contribute indirectly to economic growth and additional tax revenues in Trinity County but would not, in and of itself, induce growth. The project would not have a significant impact on socioeconomics or environmental justice.	The no action alternative would continue to use the existing transmission lines and would result in no additional direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to the population, housing, income, or community services of the project area. However, the current issues regarding system reliability would remain.

Table ES-1 (Cont.)

Affected Environment	Proposed Project	No Action Alternative
Traffic and Transportation	As a result of the current very low traffic volumes on local roadways and the low number of construction-related trips each day along most of these roadways, construction traffic would not change the existing level of service or result in significant traffic delays along these rural access routes. Construction activities and equipment movement would follow applicable highway safety requirements and Caltrans and Trinity County traffic regulations. Helicopter operations would comply with all applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and are not anticipated to pose impacts to populated locations or private or public airports. Operation, inspection, and maintenance traffic would occur infrequently and would typically involve one or two vehicles and two to four workers per year. With implementation of applicable traffic regulations, FAA regulations, and EPMs, traffic and transportation impacts would be less than significant.	Under the no action alternative, no facilities would be constructed, and project-related traffic would not be generated. No traffic or transportation impacts would occur above current conditions.
Visual Resources	The project falls into USFS Management Areas R and PR for visual resources, as well as BLM Class III lands. The project would be consistent with the management objectives for these classes. However, changes resulting from the project could alter the visual quality of the area. Some sensitive areas for scenery may not be screened by vegetation because some of the existing vegetation would be removed when the current ROW is widened. The new Weaverville Switchyard would be a new facility but small and partially screened from State Route (SR) 299. A majority of the project is in remote areas where some portions are viewed as being highly sensitive for scenery but where there are few viewers. EPMs would reduce visual impacts to the extent possible. Therefore, the project is anticipated to have less than significant impacts to visual resources.	The no action alternative would result in no additional direct or indirect effects on visual resources. However, effects resulting from the existing wood poles and distribution line would continue to modify the visual quality in the project area. The poles are a consistent intrusion into the landscape and would continue to result in a less than significant impact.
Water Resources	Vegetation removal, grading, excavation, and other soil-disturbing activities would create erosion and sediment discharge into nearby streams. Water needed during construction would be obtained from more than one existing source, impacts would be short term, and water use would be extremely limited. The transmission line would span streams, and no structures or facilities (i.e., poles, or foundations) would be located within waterways. Disturbances within streams from the existing and new access road crossings include the removal of one culvert and the placement of rocks and/or the lowering of the grade of the	The existing distribution line would remain in place. Existing access roads would continue to be used. The no action alternative would result in no additional impacts to water resources in the project area over current conditions.

Table ES-1 (Cont.)

Affected Environment	Proposed Project	No Action Alternative
Water Resources (Cont.)	approaches at some locations. The majority of the new poles would be located outside the floodplains. Where installation of new poles within floodplains is determined to be unavoidable, proposed structures would be designed to withstand flood events. An erosion and sedimentation control plan and a stormwater pollution prevention plan would be developed to reduce sedimentation impacts. Implementation of these plans and the EPMs would reduce water resource impacts to less than significant.	
Wilderness and Recreation	Although there are no developed recreational activities or facilities along the project ROW, dispersed recreation might occur on a sporadic basis through unspecified recreational areas along the ROW, such as the nature trails and roadways. These areas could be temporarily affected during expansion of the existing ROW and construction of the new ROW. Ground construction of Segment 1 would not affect water-based activities along the Trinity River and Lewiston Lake, because of the setback of the existing ROW from these activities. All helicopter flights for the project would be coordinated with the USFS in advance, to minimize disturbance to recreation users. Increased OHV use resulting from the project is anticipated to be less than significant. If requested by the land management agency, spur roads would be blocked to deter unauthorized use. The project would not result in the loss of any dedicated recreational activities or facilities. Impacts to wilderness and recreation would be less than significant.	The existing distribution line would remain in place, and existing access roads would continue to be used. The no action alternative would result in no additional impacts to established wilderness and recreation resources in the project area over current conditions.

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